

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending in the application. Claims 12-17 and 23-25 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-11 and 18-22 were acted upon in the aforesaid Office Action. Claim 5 has been canceled and new claim 26 added, leaving claims 1-4, 6-11, and 18-22 and 26 for consideration.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the matter of claim 5. Claim 5 depended from claim 1 and was deemed to have allowable matter, but objected to as depending from a non-allowed claim. Inasmuch as amended claim 1 includes the matter of old claim 5, it appears that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4 depend directly or ultimately from claim 1 and would appear to be allowable, at least through dependency.

As noted above, claim 5 has been canceled.

Claims 6-11 depend directly or ultimately from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable, at least through dependency.

As noted above, claims 12-17 stand withdrawn.

Claim 18 is a method claim and has been amended to include the matter of old claim 5, similarly to amended claim 1. As such, claim 18 calls for the provision of a tendon having first, second, and third portions in series, wherein the second portion is provided with a given cross-sectional thickness, and the first and third portions are each provided with a smaller cross-sectional thickness. It would appear that the amendments to claim 18 would render the claim allowable.

Claims 19-22 depend directly or ultimately from claim 18 and therefore appear to be allowable, at least by way of dependency.

As noted above, claims 23-25 stand withdrawn.

New claim 26 is a combination of old claims 18, 20 and 22. Claim 22 was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 depended from claim 20 which, in turn, depended from claim 18. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 26 would be deemed allowable.

It was noted that in the specification reference characters in the 300's had been used twice. By amendments herein, the second series of 300 numbers have been changed to 500 numbers.

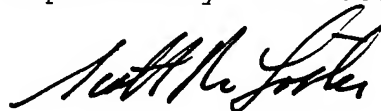
FIGS. 39 and 40, corrected in accordance with the specification amendments to reference characters are submitted herewith.

FIG. 42 has been amended to note that, as stated in the specification, it relates to prior art (page 43).

The Abstract has been amended to relate to the claims now in the case.

In summary, it is believed that claims 1-4, 6-11, 18-22, and 26 are in condition for allowance, which is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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EC/MIT0246.AMD

MIT-0246